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Reply to: **Fort Myers, FL**

January 17, 2002

**MAN FOUND GUILTY ON DRUG AND FIREARMS CHARGES**

Edwin Vega, of Lehigh Acres, Florida, was found guilty by a federal jury today in Fort Myers, Florida of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, possession with intent to distribute cocaine on April 12, 2001, and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. He was found not guilty of possession with intent to distribute cocaine on December 4, 2000, and of witness tampering. United States District Judge John E. Steele presided over the trial.

Edwin Vega is facing a maximum prison term of twenty years and a fine of \$1,000,000 for the conviction of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and the possession with intent to distribute cocaine on April 12, 2001. He is facing a mandatory minimum prison term of five years to run consecutive with any other term of imprisonment imposed on Edwin Vega and a fine of \$250,000 for the conviction of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Yolande G. Viacava and Douglas Molloy of the Fort Myers Division of the United States Attorney's Office. Edwin Vega is scheduled to be sentenced on May 6, 2002, in front of United States District Judge John E. Steele.